(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs is the custodian in the Ministers Act and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more or less the entitlement in both the Acts are at par and during the passage of Member's Salaries and Allowances Amendment Bill, 1999, a view was expressed in both the houses to evolve a mechanism for deciding the salaries etc. of MPs without their direct involvement; and

(c) whether as an interim measure, Government would entrust the members Act also to the Home Ministry which is always headed by a Senior Cabinet Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is concerned with the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Member of Parliament Act, 1954, while the subject, salaries and allowances of Ministers, is allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Details of salaries and allowances to which the Members of Parliament and Ministers are entitled are available in the relevant Acts and Rules.

At the time of consideration and passing of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1999 in Parliament, some Members had expressed views favouring evolution of a mechanism for deciding the salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament without their direct involvement.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration in this Ministry.

Implementation of Recommendations of Committee on Official Language

†5542.SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had accepted the recommendations of Committee on Official Language to the effect that judicial organisations and administrative tribunals, etc. functioning under Central Government should also work according to Official Language Act and rules framed thereunder; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what action has been taken so far to implement the above recommendations and the future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A resolution has been passed and sent to concerned Ministries/ Departments for compliance.

Tapping of Telephones

5543. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many authorities tap the telephones of different citizens without any proper permission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that telephones of certain individuals like Mr. Rajiv Chawla and Rajesh Kalra have recently been tapped unauthorisedly; and

(d) what action Government will take to protect the privacy of ordinary citizens under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No such specific information has come to notice.

(c) It would not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

(d) Rules have been framed under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on 16.02.1999 to build in adequate safeguards for the exercise of power for interception of messages.

Interrogation of Suspects at their Residence

5544. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any investigation into reasons for increasing death in police custody; and

(b) if so, whether Government would plan to interrogate the suspects at their residences to avoid over-crowding of jails and also to give more humane image?